ABSTRACT

A loopback processing method includes detecting a loopback at a first entity in a wide area network. The detection is accomplished by recognizing that a "memorized" frame has returned on the same communications interface within a given period of time. The time interval between sending the frame and detecting it returning at the same port may be recorded and sent to an operator to provide information on the relative location of the loopback in the network. A loopback detect sequence is sent from the first entity to a second entity on the communications interface in loopback. Because of the loopback, both entities receive the loopback detect sequence.